

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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SENTENCING IN EFFINGHAM COUNTY METHAMPHETAMINE CASE

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on June 5, 2006, **JAMES W. BOWLIN, JR.**, age 28, of Effingham County, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court, Benton, Illinois, to 235 months' imprisonment in the United States Bureau of Prisons, and 5 years' supervised release, for Conspiracy to Manufacture, Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine. Bowlin was also ordered to pay an \$875 fine and a \$100 special assessment. The sentence followed Bowlin's guilty plea to the charge on March 3, 2006. There is no parole in the federal system.

According to court documents, the conspiracy operated in and around Effingham County, Illinois, from early 2002 until September 2005, and during that time frame Bowlin manufactured methamphetamine with several others for personal use, profit, or both.

This investigation, and the ongoing investigation into methamphetamine manufacturing and distribution activities in and around Effingham County, Illinois, is being conducted by the Effingham County Sheriff's Department, the Effingham City Police Department, and other local law enforcement agencies in cooperation with the Effingham County State's Attorney Edward Deters. The ongoing investigation is conducted as part of the Effingham County Project Safe Neighborhoods DRAGUN Team Initiative, a cooperative effort of local, state and federal law enforcement, and state and federal prosecuting authorities, aimed at ridding communities of drugs and guns.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kit R. Morrissey.